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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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IN THE CLAIMS

- 1-7 (canceled)
8. (previously presented) A method comprising subjecting a  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue from a sulfate process to heat treatment and, without being mixed further with other substances, performing a metallurgical process or preparing a refractory material with the heat treated  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue.
9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are subjected to heat treatment at from 100 to 1300°C.
10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are in powder form or in the form of molded bodies.
11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are in powder form or in the form of molded bodies.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. %  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 5 to 40 wt. %  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 15 wt. % of an iron compound compounds; from 1 to 15 wt. %  $\text{MgO}$ ; and from 0.5 to 15 wt. %  $\text{CaO}$ .
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises calculated as oxides from 20 to 80 wt. %  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 30 wt. %  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 0 to 15 wt. %  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 0 to 15 wt. %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 1 to 15 wt. %  $\text{M}_2\text{O}$ ; from 0 to 15 wt. %  $\text{CaO}$ .
14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the dried  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the dried  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are used in a tap hole mass.
16. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. %  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 5 to 40 wt. %  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 15 wt. % of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt. %  $\text{MgO}$ ; and from 0.5 to 15 wt. %  $\text{CaO}$ .
17. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. %  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 5 to 40 wt. %  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 15 wt. % of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt. %  $\text{MgO}$ ; and from 0.5 to 15 wt. %  $\text{CaO}$ .



18. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. %  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 5 to 40 wt.%  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 15 wt.% of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt.%  $\text{MgO}$ ; and from 0.5 to 15 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ .
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.%  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 30 wt.%  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 0 to 15 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 0 to 15 wt. %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 1 to 15 wt.%  $\text{MgO}$ ; from 0 to 15 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ .
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.%  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 30 wt.%  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 0 to 15 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 0 to 15 wt. %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 1 to 15 wt.%  $\text{MgO}$ ; from 0 to 15 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ .
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein  $\text{TiO}_2$  residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.%  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; from 2 to 30 wt.%  $\text{SiO}_2$ ; from 0 to 15 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 0 to 15 wt. %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ; from 1 to 15 wt.%  $\text{MgO}$ ; from 0 to 15 wt.%  $\text{CaO}$ .
22. (canceled)
23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the dried  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the dried  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the dried  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the dried  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the dried  $\text{TiO}_2$  residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
28. (canceled)
29. (canceled)
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a metallurgical process is performed.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a refractory material is prepared.